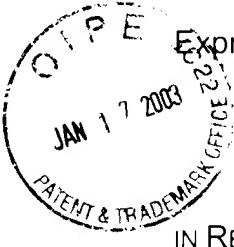


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Bartelmez, et al.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/900,115

FILED: July 6, 2001

FOR: TRANSFORMING GROWTH FACTOR BETA
(TGF-BETA) BLOCKING AGENT-TREATED
STEM CELL COMPOSITION AND METHOD

EXAMINER: TON, THAIAN N.

ART UNIT: 1632

CONF. NO.: 5757

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JAN 22 2003

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper responds to the first Office action in this patent application mailed September 19, 2002. The applicants petition the Commissioner for a three-month extension of time in which to file this amendment. A separate petition for an extension of time is enclosed. Please reconsider the application in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 19; and add the following new claims 22 and 23 as follows:

22. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the antisense oligomer has a length of from 12 to 25 bases.

23. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein the antisense oligomer has a sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO:5.